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THE NEW MUTANTS™
SECRET WARS II™
CONTINUES IN THIS ISSUE!
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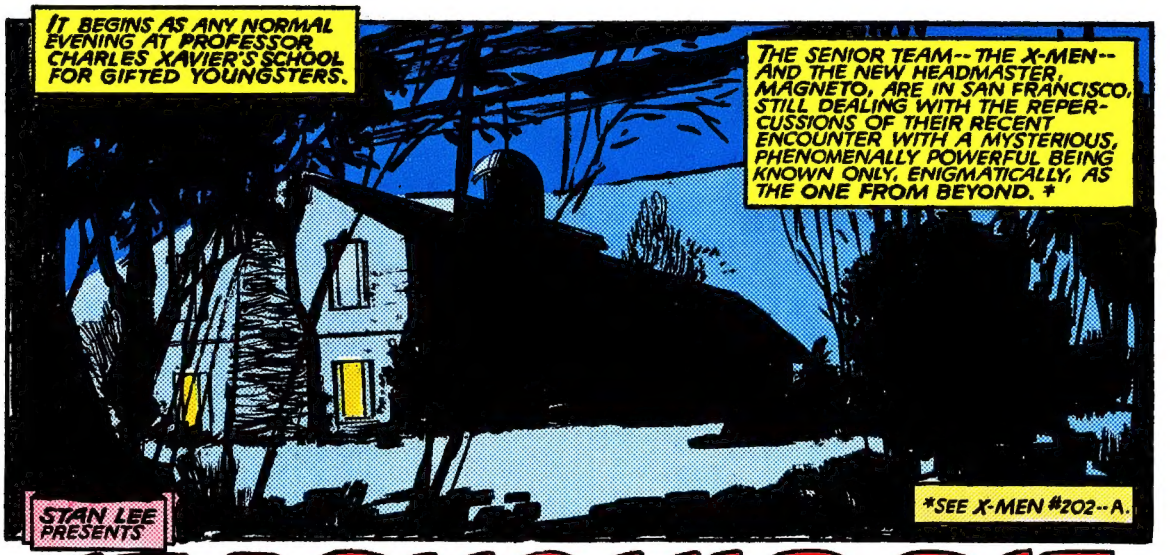
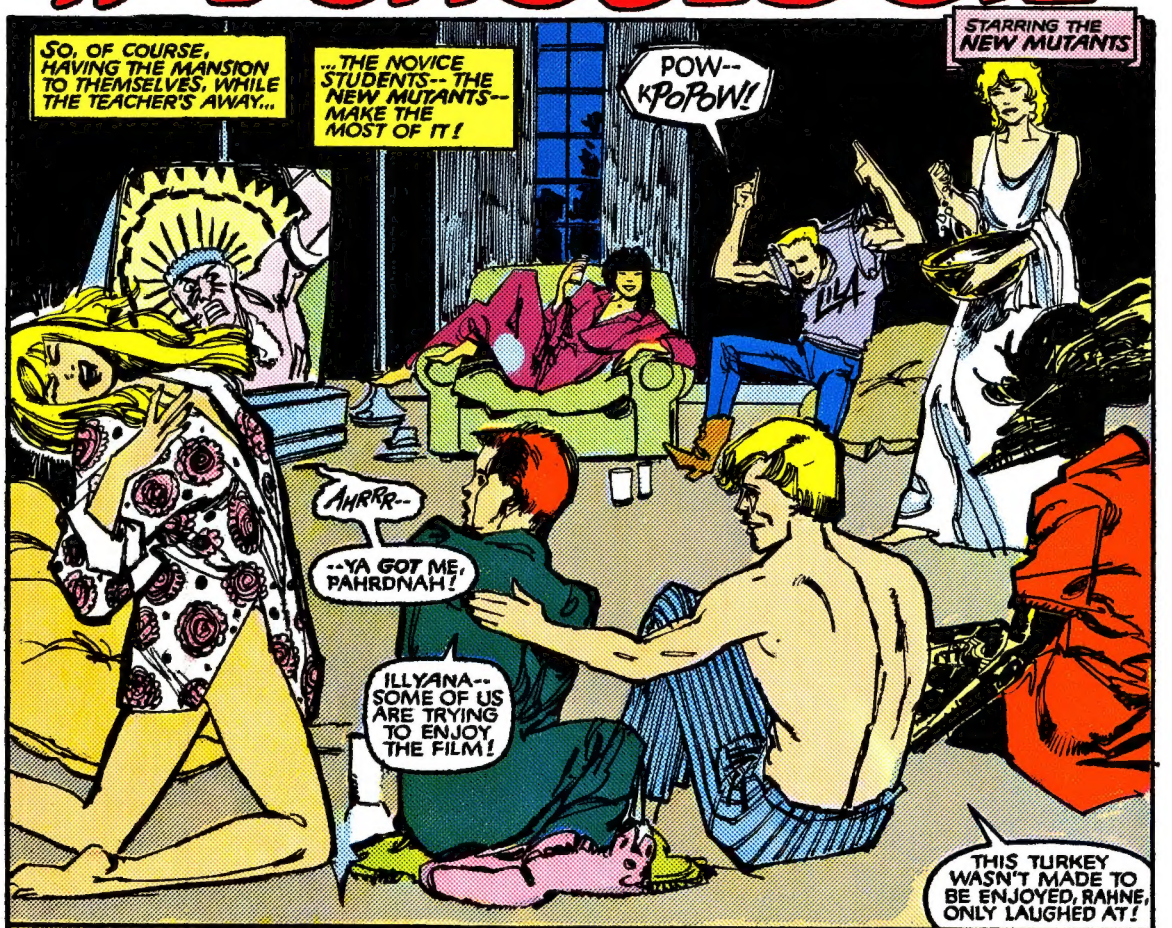
37
MAR
LEONARDI + SIENKIEWICZ


IT BEGINS AS ANY NORMAL EVENING AT PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
THE SENIOR TEAM-- THE X-MEN-- AND THE NEW HEADMASTER, MAGNETO, ARE IN SAN FRANCISCO, STILL DEALING WITH THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THEIR RECENT ENCOUNTER WITH A MYSTERIOUS, PHENOMENALLY POWERFUL BEING KNOWN ONLY, ENIGMATICALLY, AS THE ONE FROM BEYOND. *
STAN LEE PRESENTS
*SEE X-MEN #202-- A.

IF I SHOULD DIE


STARRING THE NEW MUTANTS
SO, OF COURSE, HAVING THE MANSION TO THEMSELVES, WHILE THE TEACHER'S AWAY...
...THE NOVICE STUDENTS-- THE NEW MUTANTS-- MAKE THE MOST OF IT!
POW-- KPOPOW!
AHRRR--
--YA GOT ME, PAHRDNAH!
ILLYANA-- SOME OF US ARE TRYING TO ENJOY THE FILM!
THIS TURKEY WASN'T MADE TO BE ENJOYED, RAHNE, ONLY LAUGHED AT!

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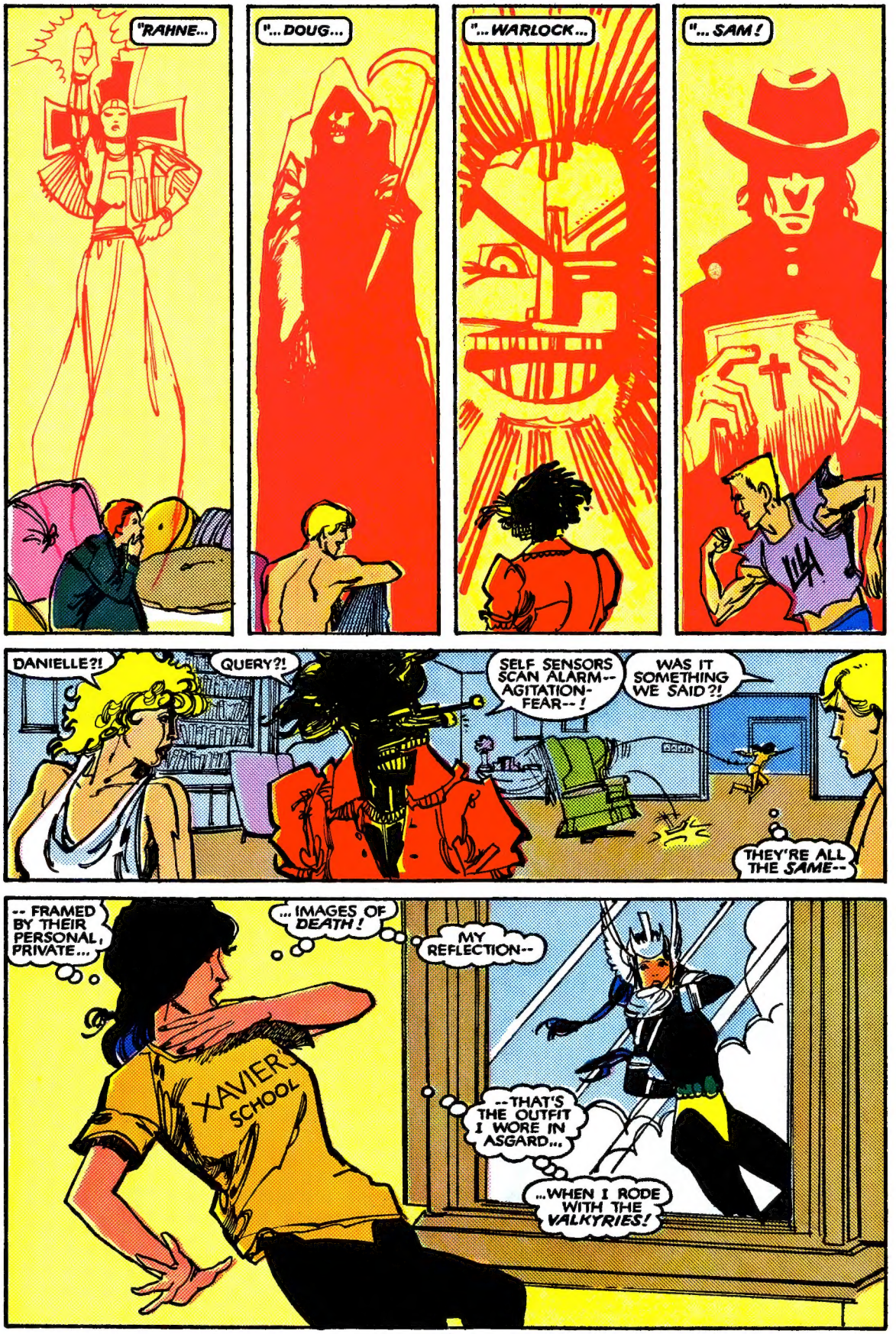
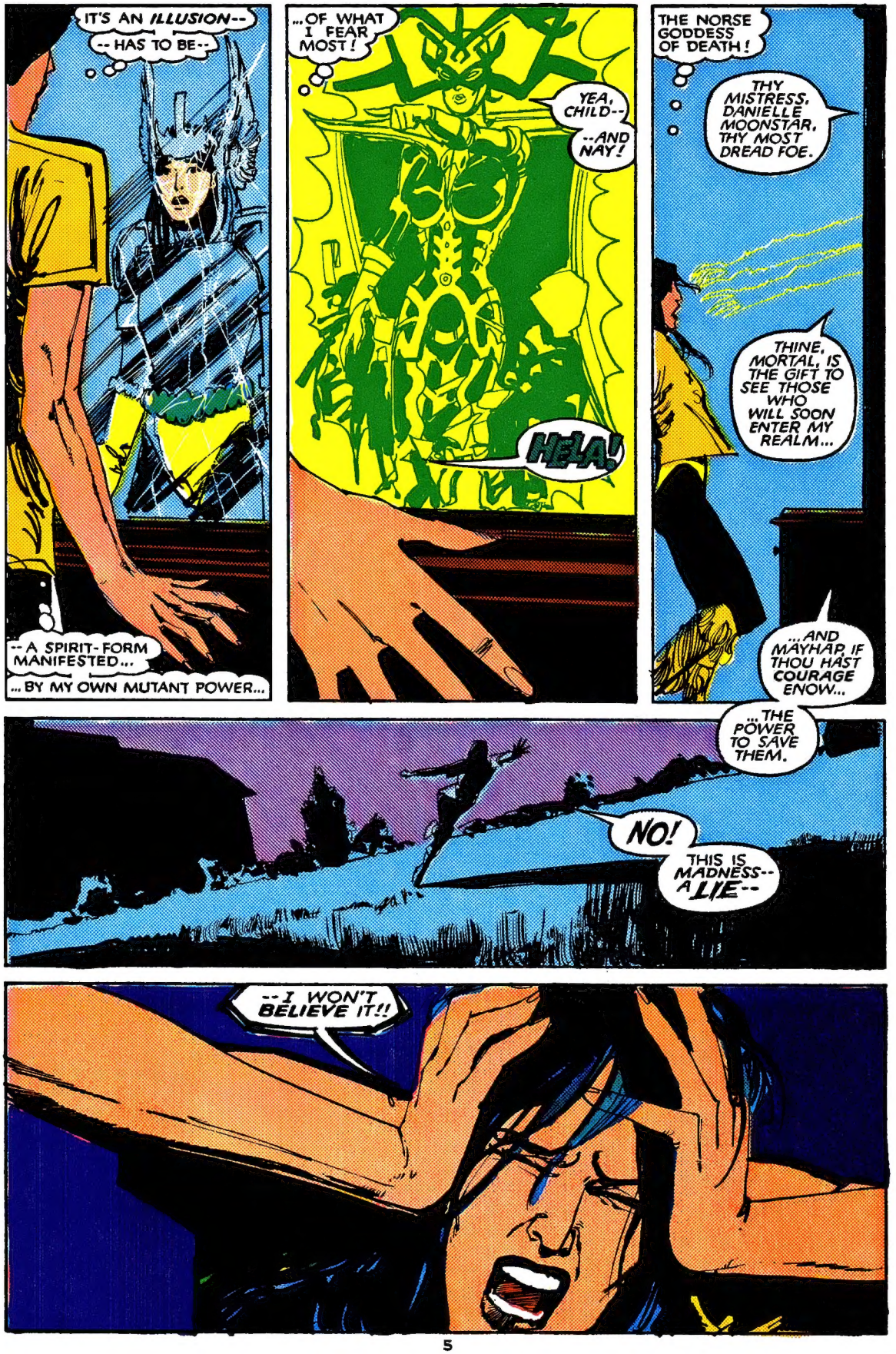
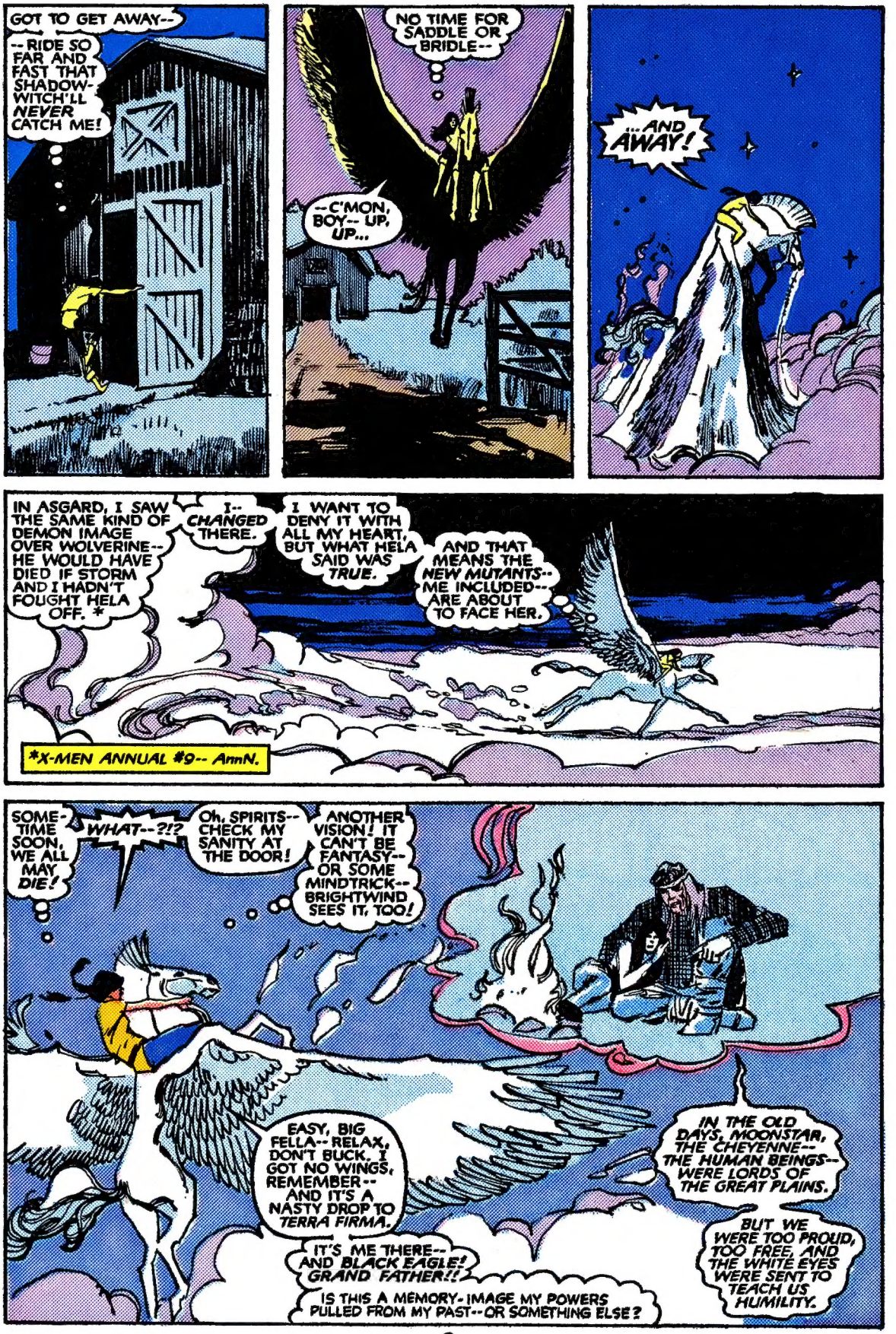
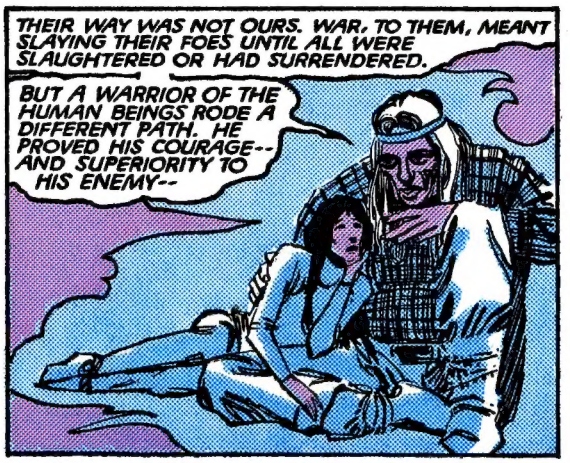
WHEN I WAS UNE PETITE JEUNE FILLE-- A VERY SMALL CHILD-- I HAD SUCH A CRUSH ON JOHN WAYNE.
THE DUKE WAS ALWAYS MY HERO, TOO, SHAN.
DID ANY OF Y'ALL KNOW HIS REAL FIRST NAME WAS "MARION?" AIN'T THAT A HOOT?
HERE'S THE POPCORN, AMARA. HOW LONG TILL IT'S READY?
ALL I NEED DO, SAM...
...IS TRANS-FORM TO MAGMA...
POP POP POP POP POP POP POP POP
... AND ALLOW MY MUTANT POWER TO DO THE REST.
THERE'S THE VILLAIN -- OL' SNAKE IN THE GRASS!
TOUCH A HAIR OF THAT LADY'S HEAD, YOU CREEP--
-- AND YOU'LL ANSWER TO THE U.S. CAVALRY!
STOP THIS, ALL OF YOU-- HUSH UP!
RAHNE, C'MON-- IT'S ONLY A MOVIE.
THESE ARE INDIANS, SAM -- JUST LIKE DANI!
MAKING SPORT WITH THEM-- SAYING SUCH CRUEL AN' WICKED THINGS--
-- IS LIKE DOING THE SAME FOR HER!
ATTAGIRL, RAHNE, YOU TELL 'EM!
XAVIER SCHOOL
HEY! GANG!! KEEP THE NOISE DOWN!!!
I'M TALKING LONG-DISTANCE TO MY MOM!

THEY'RE WATCHING SOME DUMB COWBOY MOVIE-- OF COURSE WE'RE THE BAD GUYS-- YEAH, I WISH THINGS WERE DIFFERENT, TOO.
Oh, MOM, YOU SHOULD SEE MY HORSE! HE'S SO BEAUTIFUL! I NAMED HIM BRIGHTWIND, AFTER THE PONY GRAND'PA GAVE ME WHEN I WAS A KID.
XAVIER SCHOOL
WHERE'D I GET HIM?!
NOW WHAT DO I SAY?!
NO, MOM, NOTHING'S WRONG, WHY DO YOU ASK?
SHOOT! SHE HAS EARS LIKE A FOX--
-- AND SHE CAN PROBABLY READ MY MIND TO BOOT.
BUT HOW CAN I TELL HER...
... BRIGHTWIND HAS WINGS, AND HE'S FROM ASGARD-- ONE OF THE SACRED HERD THAT CAN BE RIDDEN ONLY BY THE ALL-FATHER ODIN'S CHOOSERS OF THE SLAIN...
...THE VALKYRIES--
--GASP!?!
"OVER ILLYANA'S HEAD-- A DEMON!
NO!
NO NO NO NO NO!
THIS ISN'T HAPPENING, I WON'T LET IT!
"BUT EVEN WITH MY EYES SHUT TIGHT...
"... I SEE AN ANGEL OVER SHAN...
"...AND, BY AMARA--
"-- PLUTO, LORD OF THE OLYMPIAN UNDER-WORLD!


"RAHNE...
"... DOUG...
"... WARLOCK...
"... SAM!
DANIELLE?!
QUERY?!
SELF SENSORS SCAN ALARM-- AGITATION-FEAR--!
WAS IT SOMETHING WE SAID?!
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME--
-- FRAMED BY THEIR PERSONAL, PRIVATE...
... IMAGES OF DEATH!
MY REFLECTION--
XAVIER'S SCHOOL
--THAT'S THE OUTFIT I WORE IN ASGARD...
...WHEN I RODE WITH THE VALKYRIES!

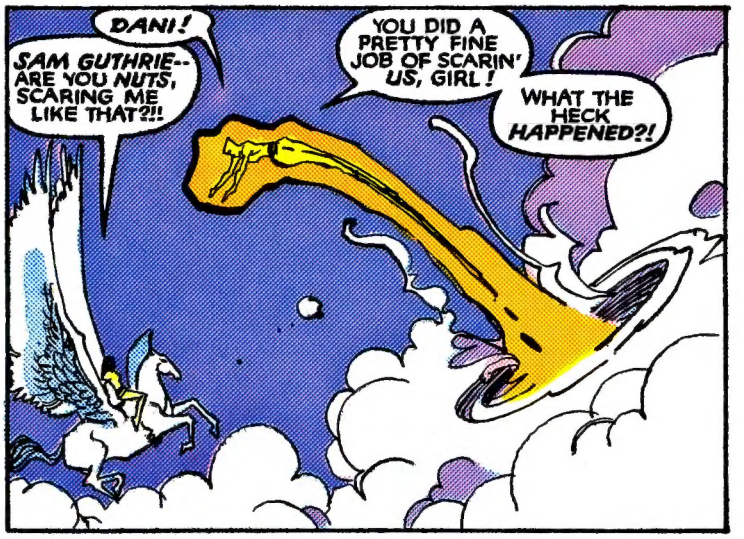

IT'S AN ILLUSION--
-- HAS TO BE--
-- A SPIRIT-FORM MANIFESTED...
... BY MY OWN MUTANT POWER...
...OF WHAT I FEAR MOST!
YEA, CHILD--
--AND NAY!
HELA!
THE NORSE GODDESS OF DEATH!
THY MISTRESS, DANIELLE MOONSTAR, THY MOST DREAD FOE.
THINE, MORTAL, IS THE GIFT TO SEE THOSE WHO WILL SOON ENTER MY REALM...
...AND MAYHAP IF THOU HAST COURAGE ENOW...
...THE POWER TO SAVE THEM.
NO!
THIS IS MADNESS-- A LIE--
--I WON'T BELIEVE IT!!


GOT TO GET AWAY--
--RIDE SO FAR AND FAST THAT SHADOW-WITCH'LL NEVER CATCH ME!
NO TIME FOR SADDLE OR BRIDLE--
--C'MON, BOY-- UP, UP...
...AND AWAY!
IN ASGARD, I SAW THE SAME KIND OF DEMON IMAGE OVER WOLVERINE-- HE WOULD HAVE DIED IF STORM AND I HADN'T FOUGHT HELA OFF. *
I-- CHANGED THERE.
I WANT TO DENY IT WITH ALL MY HEART, BUT WHAT HELA SAID WAS TRUE.
AND THAT MEANS THE NEW MUTANTS-- ME INCLUDED-- ARE ABOUT TO FACE HER.
*X-MEN ANNUAL #9-- AmnN.
SOME-TIME SOON, WE ALL MAY DIE!
WHAT--?!?
Oh, SPIRITS-- CHECK MY SANITY AT THE DOOR!
ANOTHER VISION! IT CAN'T BE FANTASY-- OR SOME MINDTRICK-- BRIGHTWIND SEES IT, TOO!
EASY, BIG FELLA-- RELAX, DON'T BUCK. I GOT NO WINGS, REMEMBER-- AND IT'S A NASTY DROP TO TERRA FIRMA.
IT'S ME THERE-- AND BLACK EAGLE! GRAND FATHER!!
IS THIS A MEMORY-IMAGE MY POWERS PULLED FROM MY PAST--OR SOMETHING ELSE?
IN THE OLD DAYS, MOONSTAR, THE CHEYENNE-- THE HUMAN BEINGS-- WERE LORDS OF THE GREAT PLAINS.
BUT WE WERE TOO PROUD, TOO FREE, AND THE WHITE EYES WERE SENT TO TEACH US HUMILITY.

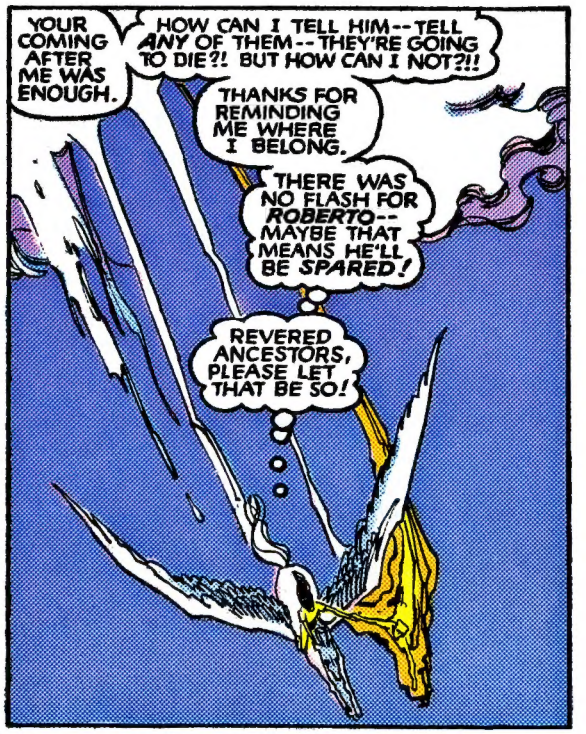

THEIR WAY WAS NOT OURS. WAR, TO THEM, MEANT SLAYING THEIR FOES UNTIL ALL WERE SLAUGHTERED OR HAD SURRENDERED.
BUT A WARRIOR OF THE HUMAN BEINGS RODE A DIFFERENT PATH. HE PROVED HIS COURAGE-- AND SUPERIORITY TO HIS ENEMY--

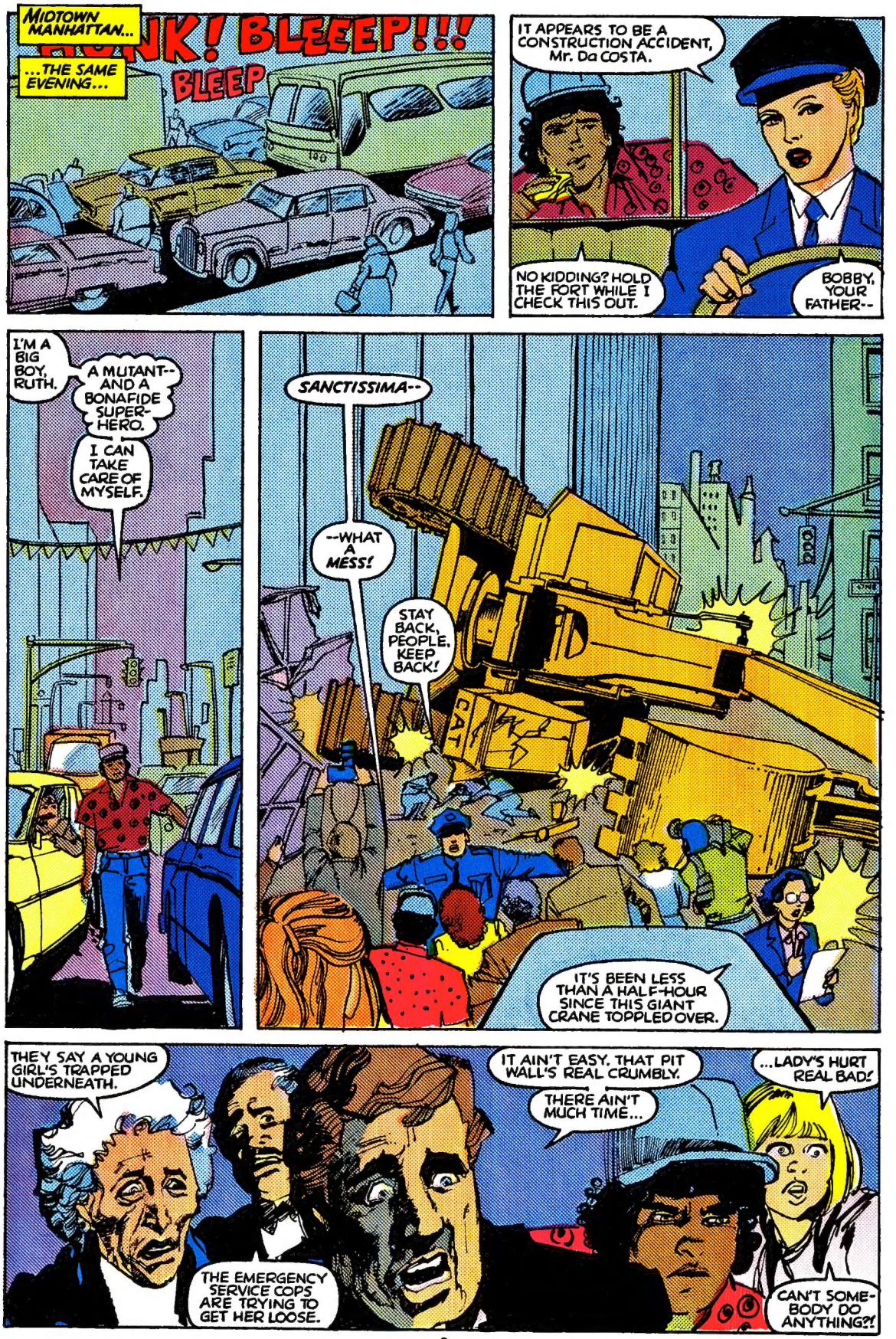
-- BY COUNTING COUP.
YOU TOUCH YOUR FOE-- SHOW HOW EASILY YOU COULD HAVE KILLED, BUT CHOSE NOT TO--
-- AND THEREBY SHAME HIM.

THE WHITES HAD NO SHAME. ALL THEY CARED ABOUT IS WINNING.
AND SINCE THEY DID, WHO IS TO SAY WHICH IS THE BETTER PATH?

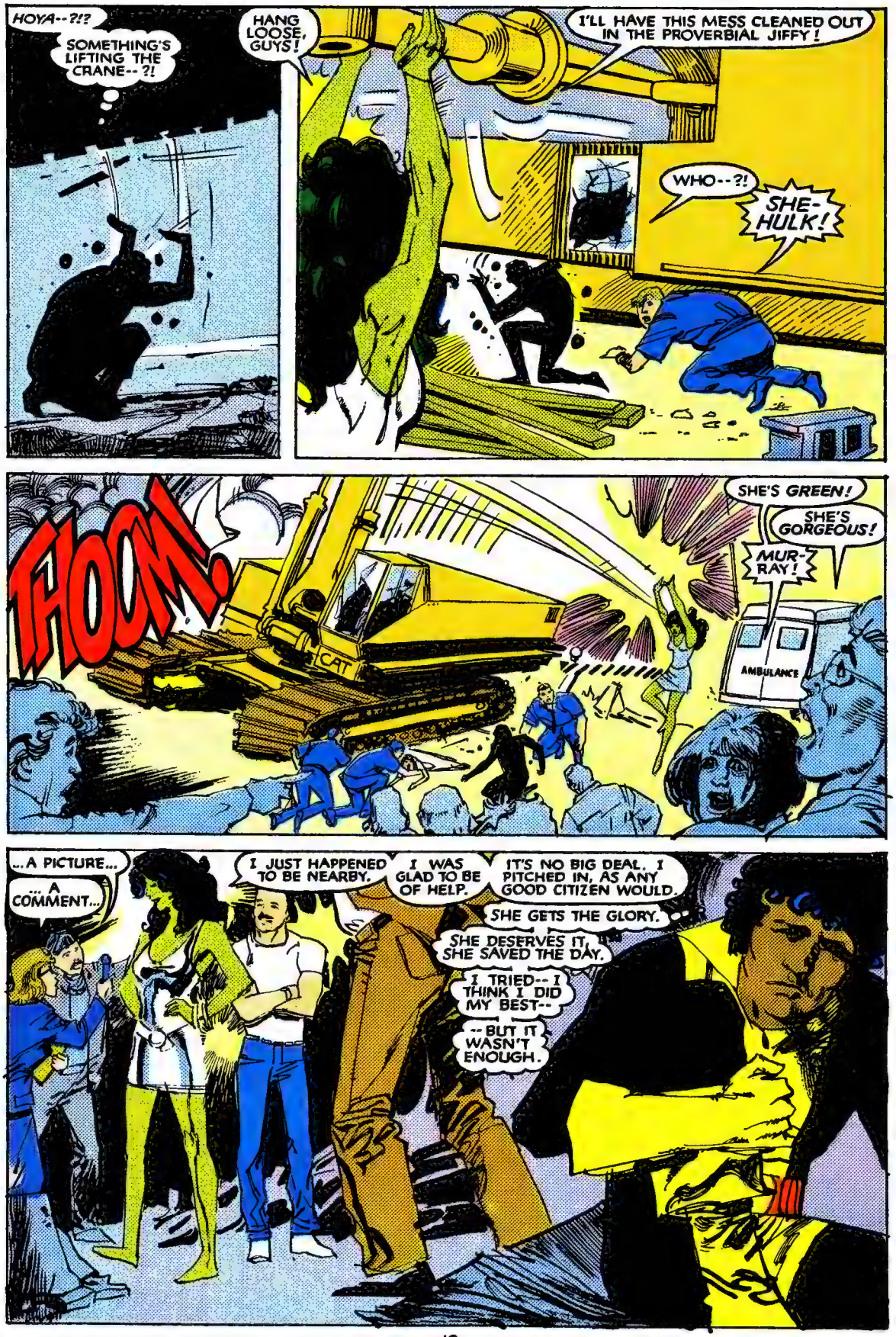

DANI!
SAM GUTHRIE-- ARE YOU NUTS, SCARING ME LIKE THAT?!!
YOU DID A PRETTY FINE JOB OF SCARIN' US, GIRL!
WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED?!

WAS IT THE MOVIE?! AH'M SORRY. WE WERE JERKS. NONE OF US-- 'CEPT RAHNE, BLESS HER-- THOUGHT BEANS FOR YOUR FEELINGS.
LOOK, DANI, AH WANT TO HELP, IF AH CAN. IF YOU'LL ALLOW.
IT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR, Y'KNOW?

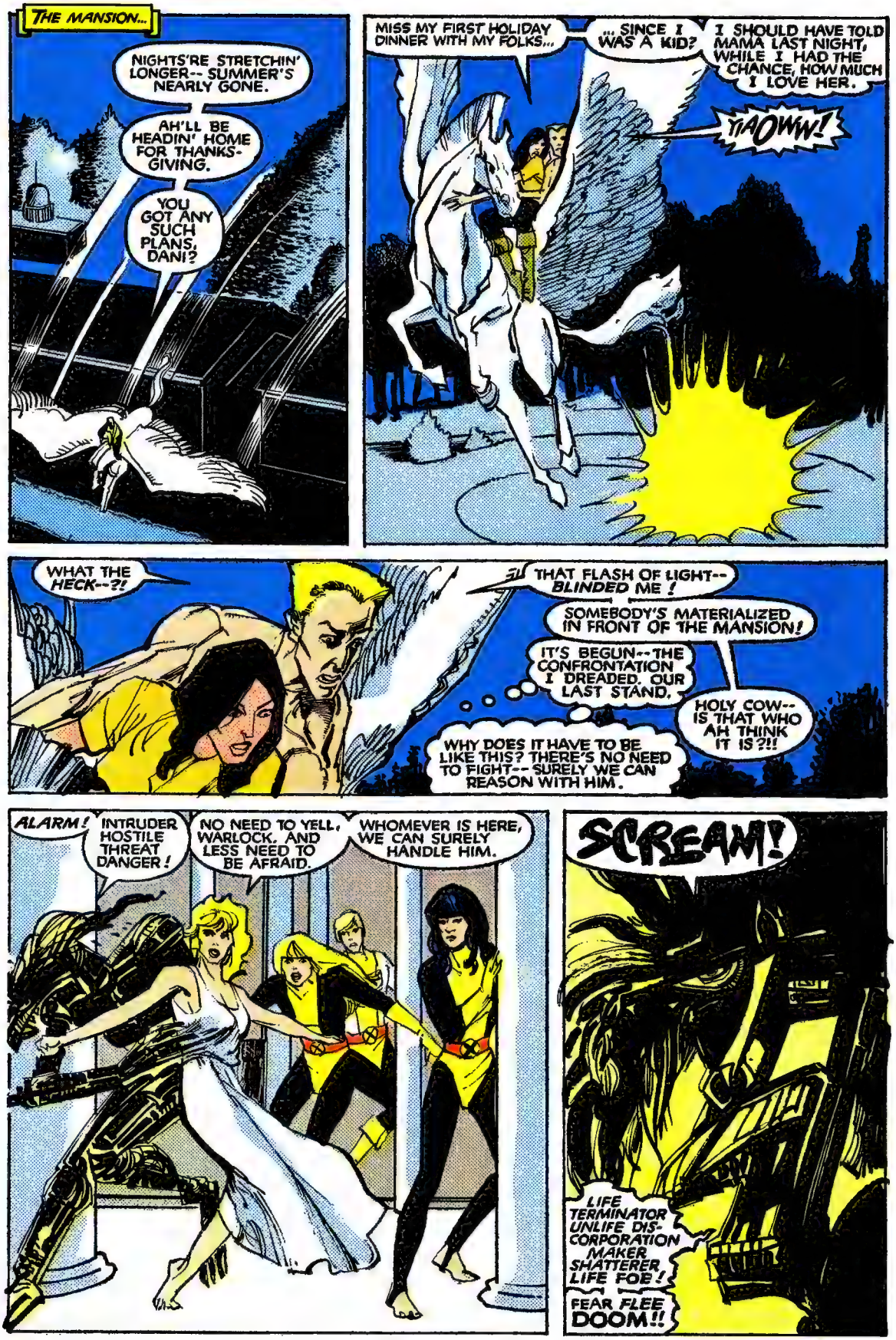

YOUR COMING AFTER ME WAS ENOUGH.
HOW CAN I TELL HIM-- TELL ANY OF THEM-- THEY'RE GOING TO DIE?! BUT HOW CAN I NOT?!!
THANKS FOR REMINDING ME WHERE I BELONG.
THERE WAS NO FLASH FOR ROBERTO-- MAYBE THAT MEANS HE'LL BE SPARED!
REVERED ANCESTORS, PLEASE LET THAT BE SO!

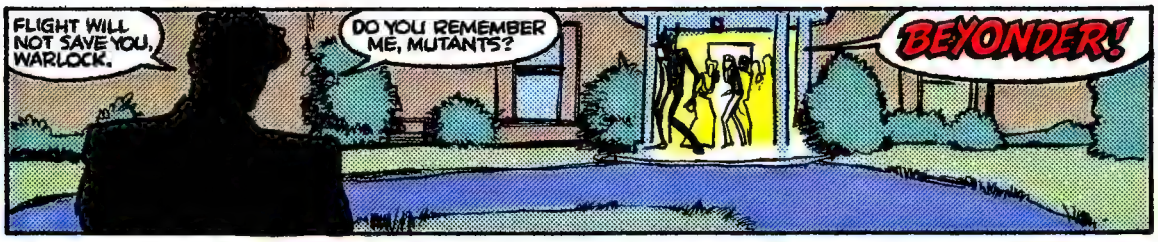

MIDTOWN MANHATTAN...
...THE SAME EVENING...
BLEEP
BLEEP
BLEEP!!!
IT APPEARS TO BE A CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT, Mr. Da COSTA.
NO KIDDING? HOLD THE FORT WHILE I CHECK THIS OUT.
BOBBY, YOUR FATHER--
I'M A BIG BOY, RUTH.
A MUTANT-- AND A BONAFIDE SUPER-HERO.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
SANCTISSIMA--
--WHAT A MESS!
STAY BACK, PEOPLE. KEEP BACK!
IT'S BEEN LESS THAN A HALF-HOUR SINCE THIS GIANT CRANE TOPPLED OVER.
THEY SAY A YOUNG GIRL'S TRAPPED UNDERNEATH.
THE EMERGENCY SERVICE COPS ARE TRYING TO GET HER LOOSE.
IT AIN'T EASY. THAT PIT WALL'S REAL CRUMBLY.
THERE AIN'T MUCH TIME...
...LADY'S HURT REAL BAD!
CAN'T SOMEBODY DO ANYTHING?!

CERTAINLY, MENINA!
SUNSPOT WILL BE GLAD TO LEND A HAND!
HOLY COW!
IT'S A MUTIE!
HOLD IT, SHORTY!
A WHAT--?!
I THINK I CAN LIFT THIS CRANE.
YEAH, RIGHT--YOU AN' WHAT ARMY?
SCRAM, WILLYA --WE'RE BUSY.
THE JACKS ARE BARELY HOLDING.
IF THAT'S ONE OF THEM SUPER-AVENGERS OR WHATEVER, LET HIM TRY!
OKAY, PAL.
BUT WATCH OUT FOR SLIPPAGE.
I'LL BE CAREFUL.
FREAK
SERGEANT FLETCHER'LL PUT YOU IN POSITION. GOOD LUCK!
DON'T HAVE TO MOVE IT MUCH.
JUST ENOUGH FOR US TO SLIDE HER FREE.
YOU KNOW ANY PRAYERS, SERGEANT?!
YOU'RE ALREADY IN 'EM.
UHNNHF!
SO FAR... SO GOOD!
LITTLE MORE, SUNSPOT--HANG ON, HONEY--AN' WE'RE HOME!
AAEIEEE!
IT'S SLIPPING--THE PIT'S COLLAPSING UNDER US!
I CAN'T HOLD IT!

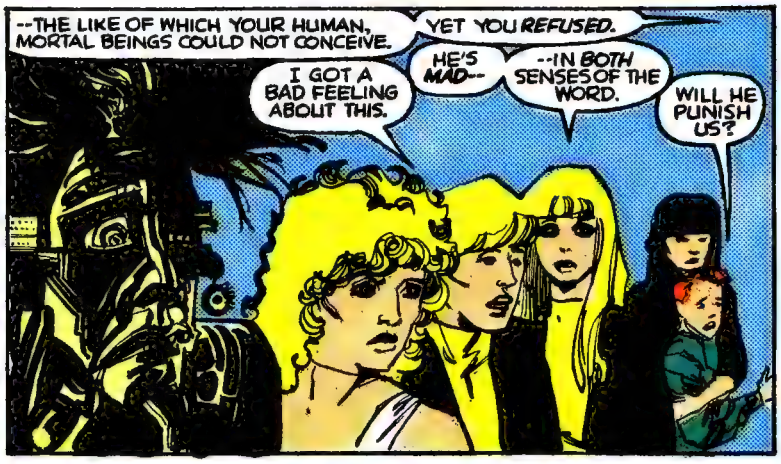

HOYA--?!?
SOMETHING'S LIFTING THE CRANE--?!
HANG LOOSE, GUYS!
I'LL HAVE THIS MESS CLEANED OUT IN THE PROVERBIAL JIFFY!
WHO--?!
SHE-HULK!
THOOM!
CAT
SHE'S GREEN!
SHE'S GORGEOUS!
MUR-RAY!
AMBULANCE
...A PICTURE...
...A COMMENT...
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE NEARBY.
I WAS GLAD TO BE OF HELP.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL. I PITCHED IN, AS ANY GOOD CITIZEN WOULD.
SHE GETS THE GLORY.
SHE DESERVES IT, SHE SAVED THE DAY.
I TRIED--I THINK I DID MY BEST--
--BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH.

AS I FAILED MY BELOVED JULIANA...
...I FAILED THIS GIRL--!
YOU GOT NO CALL TO LOOK GLUM, YOUNGSTER.
THE CRANE STARTED SHIFTING...
...BEFORE SHE-HULK ARRIVED.
THOSE FEW SECONDS YOU HELD IT MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.
IF NOT FOR THEM--FOR YOU-- ABBY AN' ME WOULD BE HISTORY.
I DON'T CARE WHAT THE WORLD SAYS ABOUT YOU MUTANTS...
...YOU'RE ACES IN MY BOOK.
STAND TALL, SUNSPOT, AND LOOK PROUD-- YOU DONE GOOD!
THANK YOU, SERGEANT.
I SHALL TRY.
THE STREET WILL BE CLEAR SOON, BOBBY.
WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO DRIVE YOU?
HOME.
BUT WHERE IS THAT?!
I WEAR THE UNIFORM OF THE NEW MUTANTS, THEY ARE MY FRIENDS--
--BUT DO I BELONG WITH THEM...
...OR WITH MY FATHER?
OR... NEITHER
RUTH, DO YOU KNOW WHAT COUNTRY MY MOTHERS IN THIS WEEK?
BRAZIL, BOBBY. AT YOUR FAMILY HOME IN RIO DE JANIERO.
THEN, TAKE ME TO KENNEDY AIRPORT.


THE MANSION...
NIGHTS'RE STRETCHIN' LONGER-- SUMMER'S NEARLY GONE.
AH'LL BE HEADIN' HOME FOR THANKS-GIVING.
YOU GOT ANY SUCH PLANS, DANI?
MISS MY FIRST HOLIDAY DINNER WITH MY FOLKS...
... SINCE I WAS A KID?
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD MAMA LAST NIGHT, WHILE I HAD THE CHANCE, HOW MUCH I LOVE HER.
YIAOWW!
WHAT THE HECK--?!
THAT FLASH OF LIGHT-- BLINDED ME!
SOMEBODY'S MATERIALIZED IN FRONT OF THE MANSION!
IT'S BEGUN--THE CONFRONTATION I DREADED. OUR LAST STAND.
HOLY COW-- IS THAT WHO AH THINK IT IS?!!
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS? THERE'S NO NEED TO FIGHT-- SURELY WE CAN REASON WITH HIM.
ALARM!
INTRUDER HOSTILE THREAT DANGER!
NO NEED TO YELL, WARLOCK. AND LESS NEED TO BE AFRAID.
WHOMEVER IS HERE, WE CAN SURELY HANDLE HIM.
SCREAM!
LIFE TERMINATOR UNLIFE DIS-CORPORATION MAKER SHATTERER LIFE FOE!
FEAR FLEE DOOM!!


FLIGHT WILL NOT SAVE YOU, WARLOCK.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME, MUTANTS?
BEYONDER!

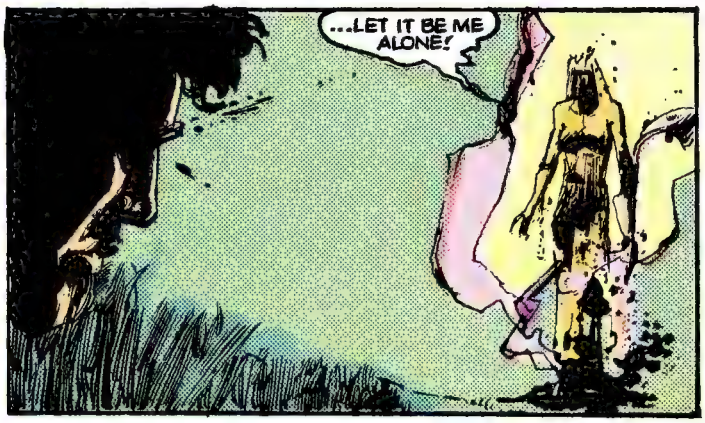
YES, THE ONE FROM BEYOND.
A STRANGER TO YOUR COSMOS. A SEEKER AFTER TRUTH, WHOSE QUEST WAS TO DIVINE THE PURPOSE AND MEANING OF HIS OWN EXISTENCE.
I OFFERED YOU THE PATH TO GLORY--
--A TRANSCENDENT JOY, A HARMONY WITH ALL CREATION--

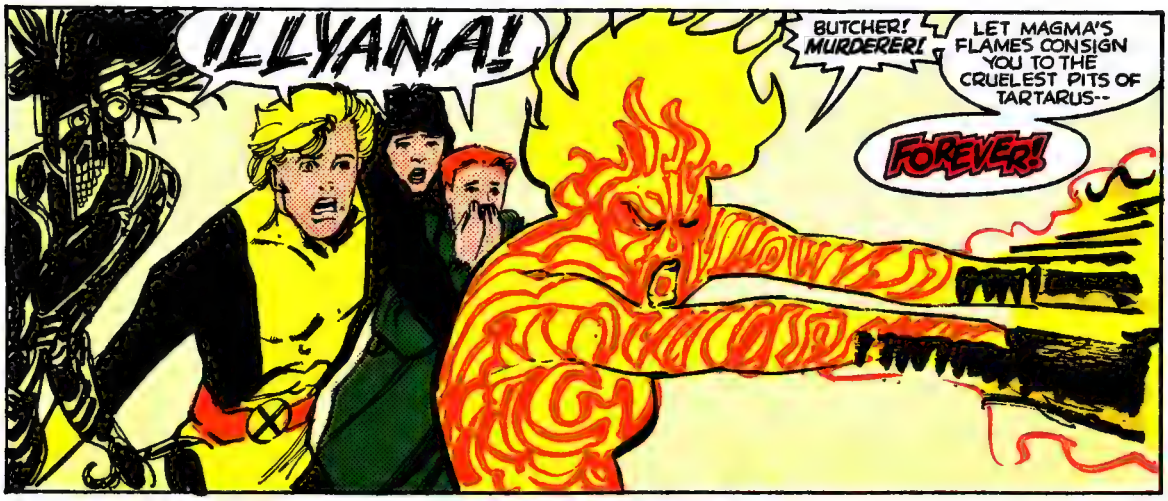

--THE LIKE OF WHICH YOUR HUMAN, MORTAL BEINGS COULD NOT CONCEIVE.
YET YOU REFUSED.
HE'S MAD--
--IN BOTH SENSES OF THE WORD.
I GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
WILL HE PUNISH US?

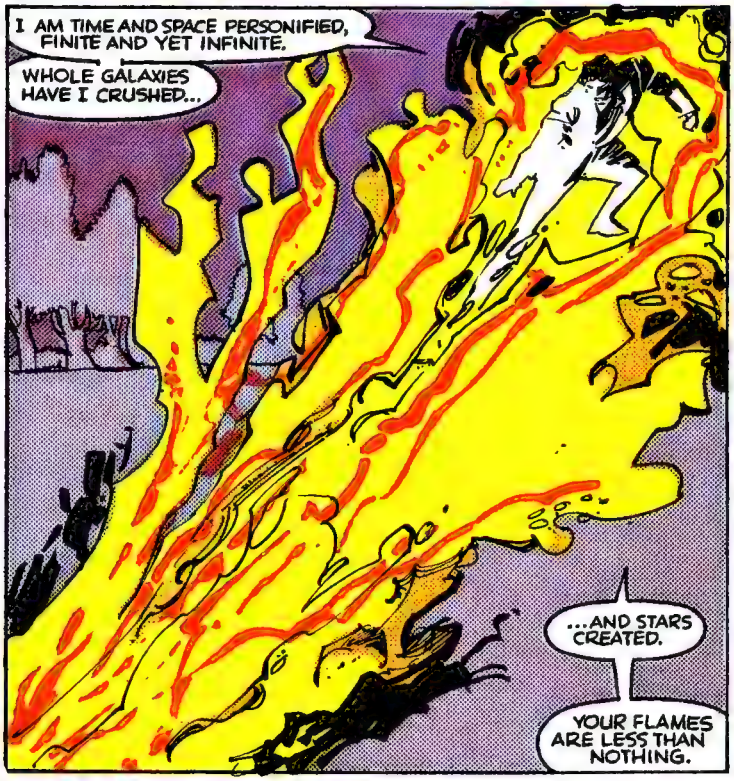
YOU'RE COOL AS ICE, CHIEF.
AIN'T YOU AFRAID?
SCARED STIFF.
AVIER
CHOO!
BUT I WON'T LET THE BEYONDER SEE THAT.

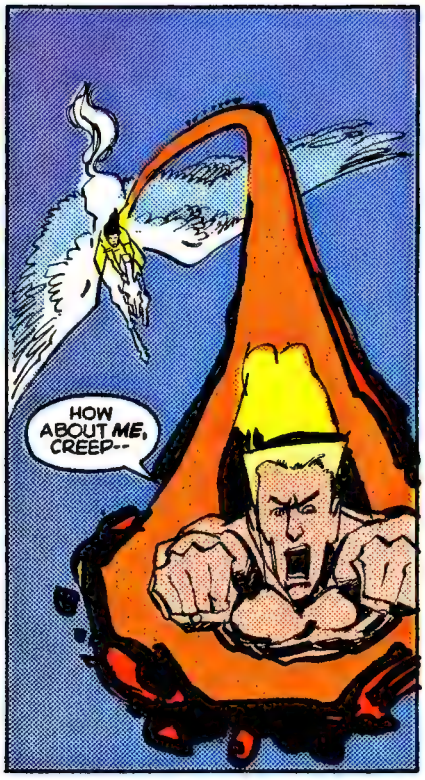
I WAS YOUR CHOSEN MESSENGER.
ILLYANA-- DON'T!
SPARE MY FRIENDS...
...I BEG YOU.

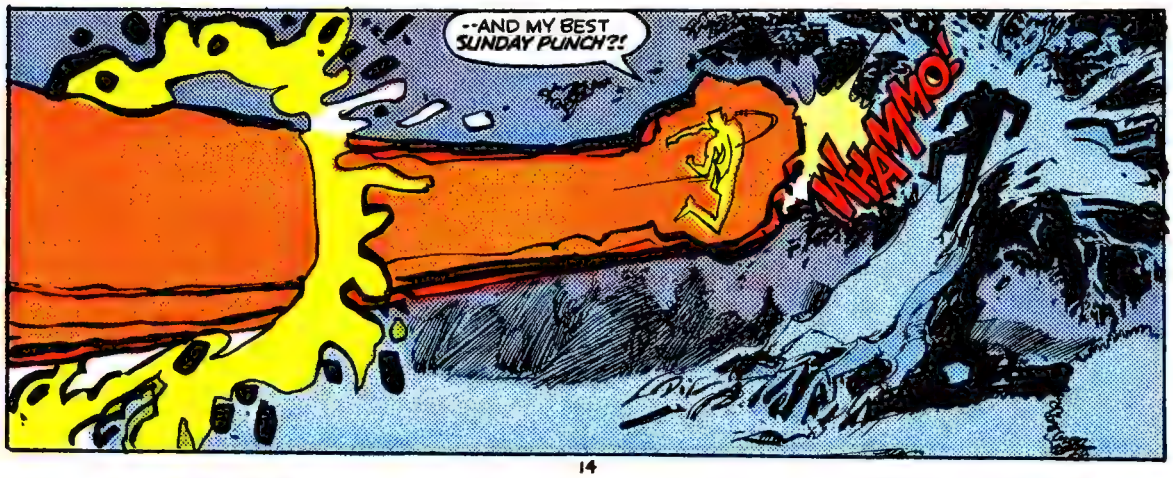
IF ANYONE MUST PAY THE PRICE OF OUR DENIAL OF YOU...

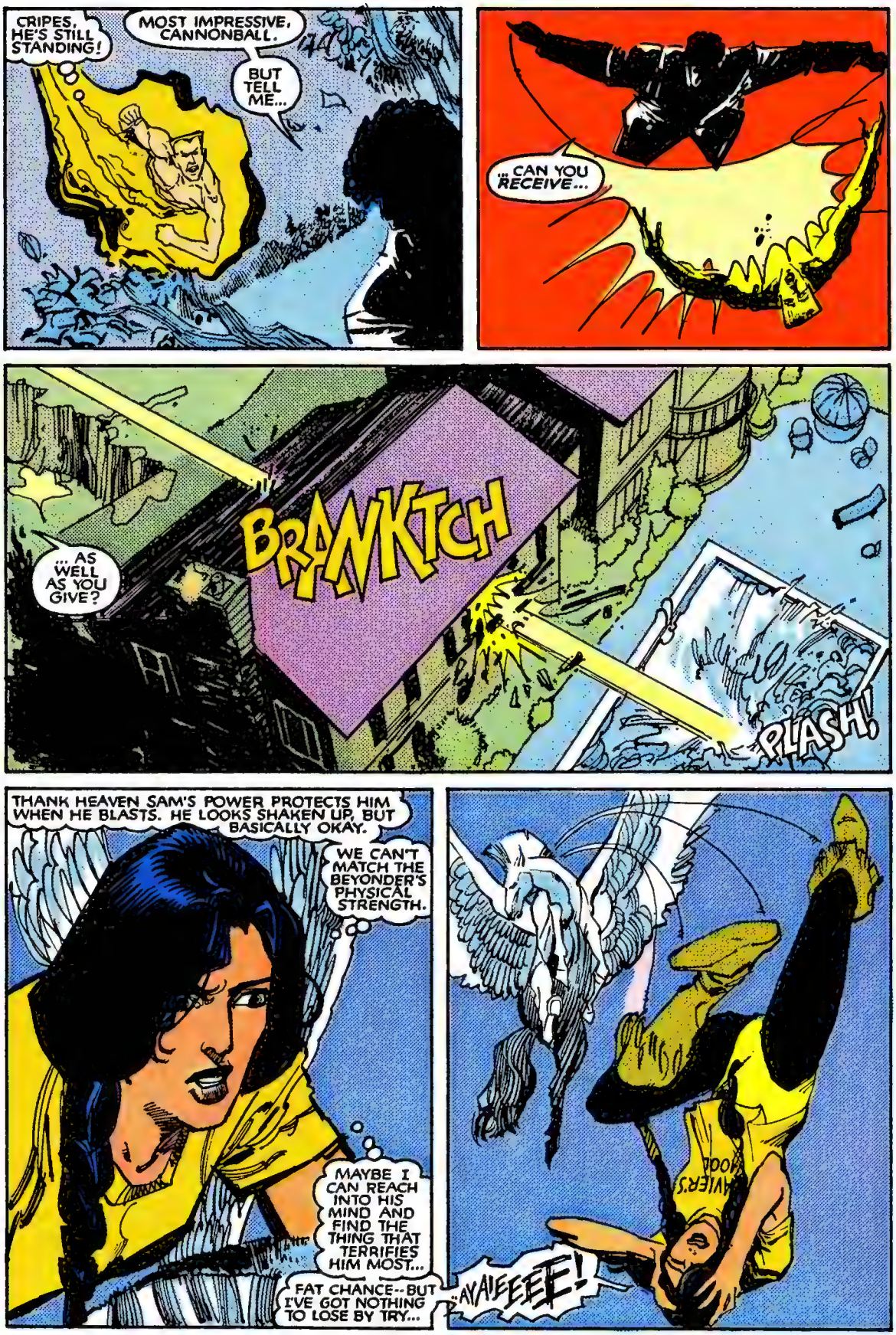

...LET IT BE ME ALONE!


ILLYANA!
BUTCHER! MURDERER!
LET MAGMA'S FLAMES CONSIGN YOU TO THE CRUELEST PITS OF TARTARUS--
FOREVER!

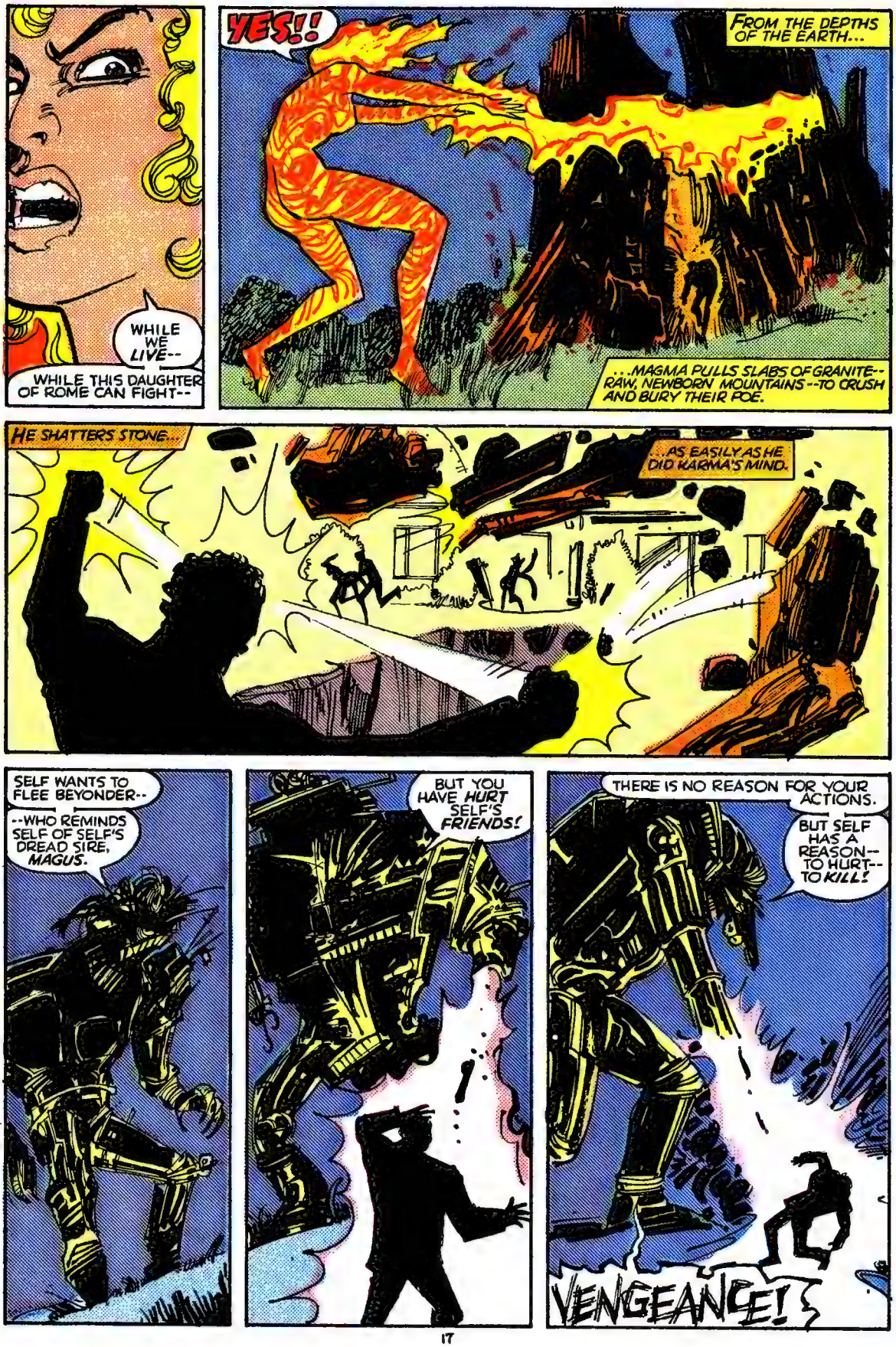

I AM TIME AND SPACE PERSONIFIED, FINITE AND YET INFINITE.
WHOLE GALAXIES HAVE I CRUSHED...
...AND STARS CREATED.
YOUR FLAMES ARE LESS THAN NOTHING.

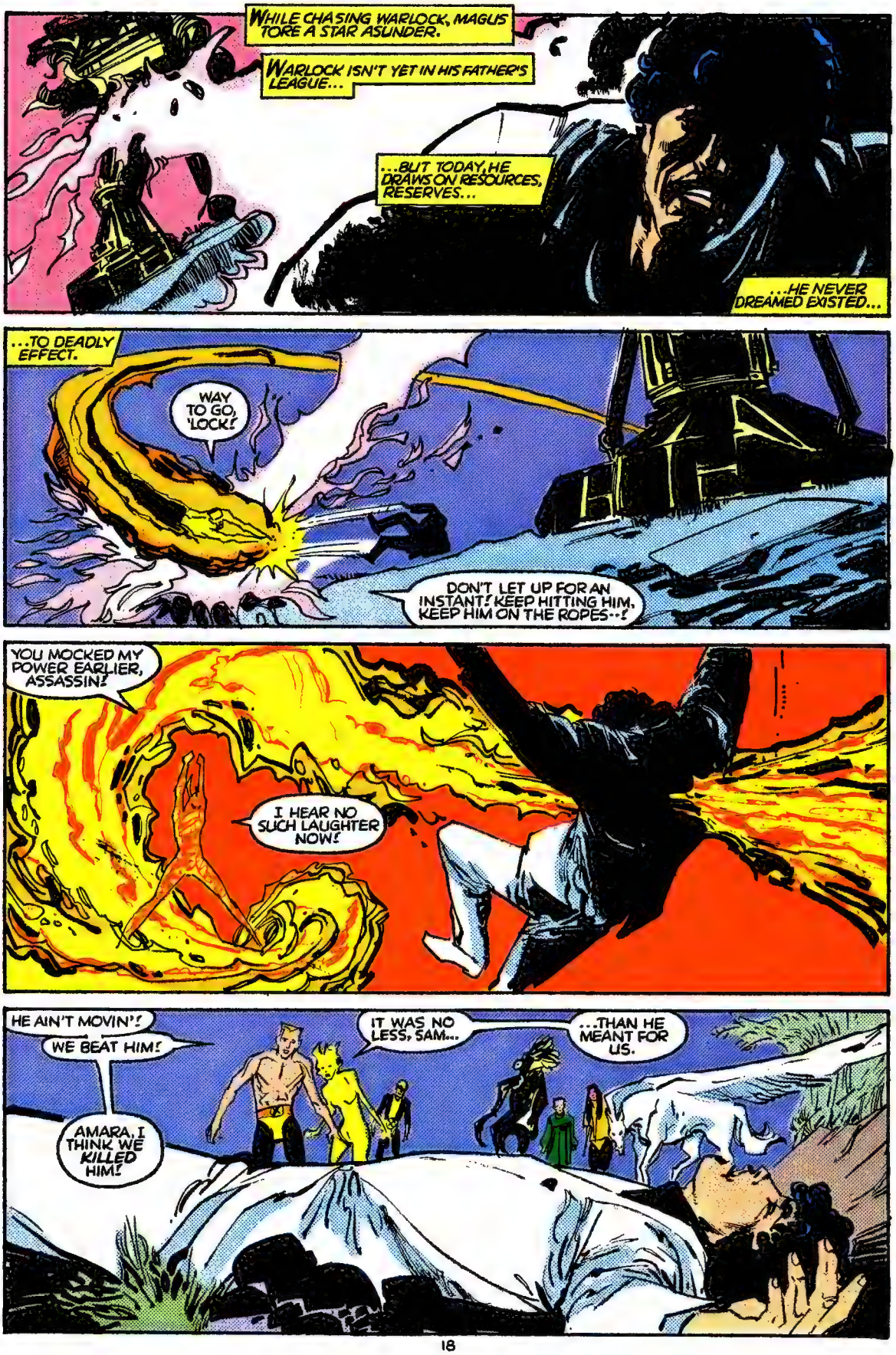

HOW ABOUT ME, CREEP--

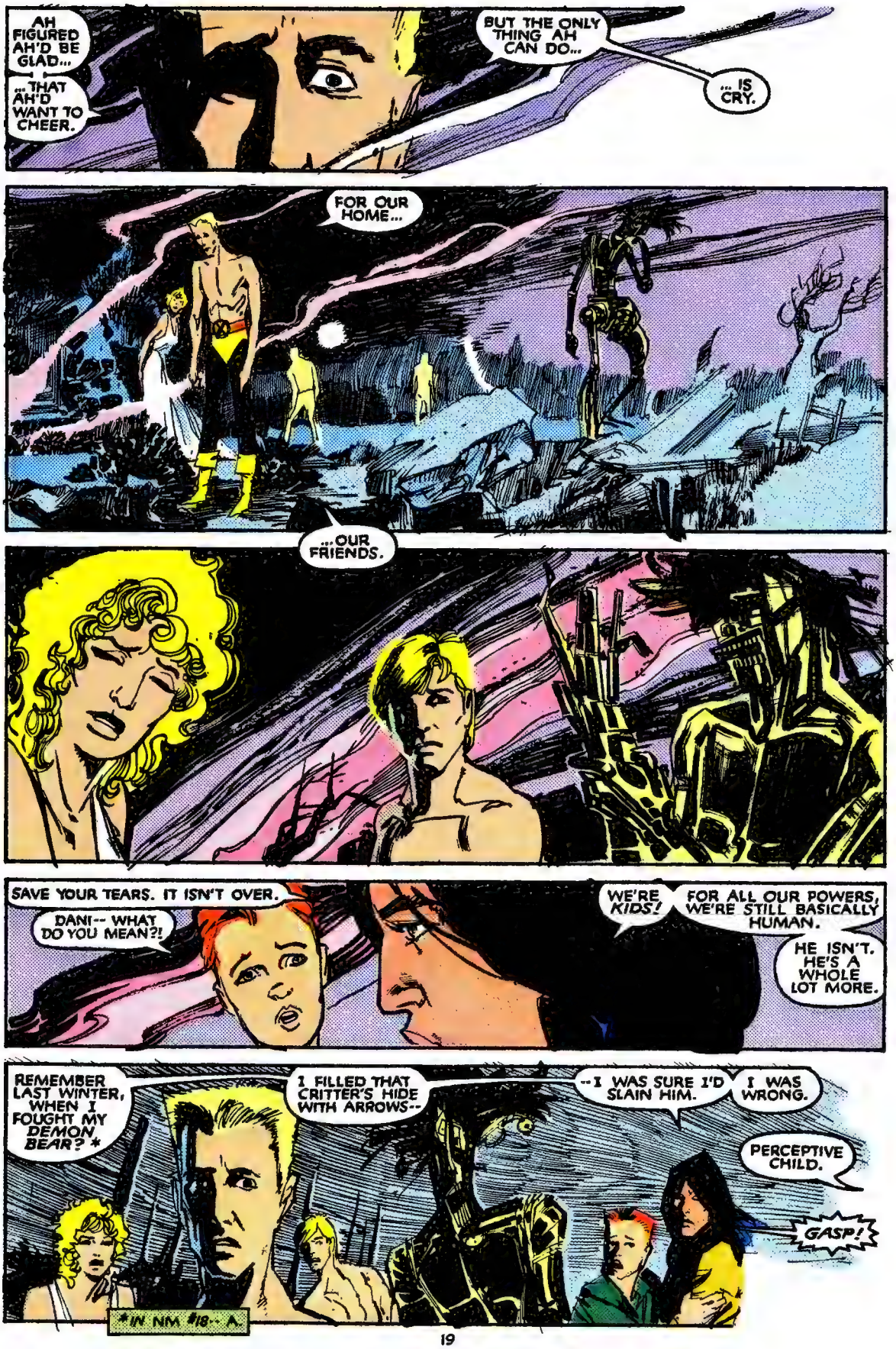

--AND MY BEST SUNDAY PUNCH?!
WHAMMO!


CRIPES, HE'S STILL STANDING!
MOST IMPRESSIVE, CANNONBALL.
BUT TELL ME...
...CAN YOU RECEIVE...
...AS WELL AS YOU GIVE?
BRAAKTCH
PLASH!
THANK HEAVEN SAM'S POWER PROTECTS HIM WHEN HE BLASTS. HE LOOKS SHAKEN UP, BUT BASICALLY OKAY.
WE CAN'T MATCH THE BEYONDER'S PHYSICAL STRENGTH.
MAYBE I CAN REACH INTO HIS MIND AND FIND THE THING THAT TERRIFIES HIM MOST...
FAT CHANCE--BUT I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE BY TRY...
...AYAIEEEE!

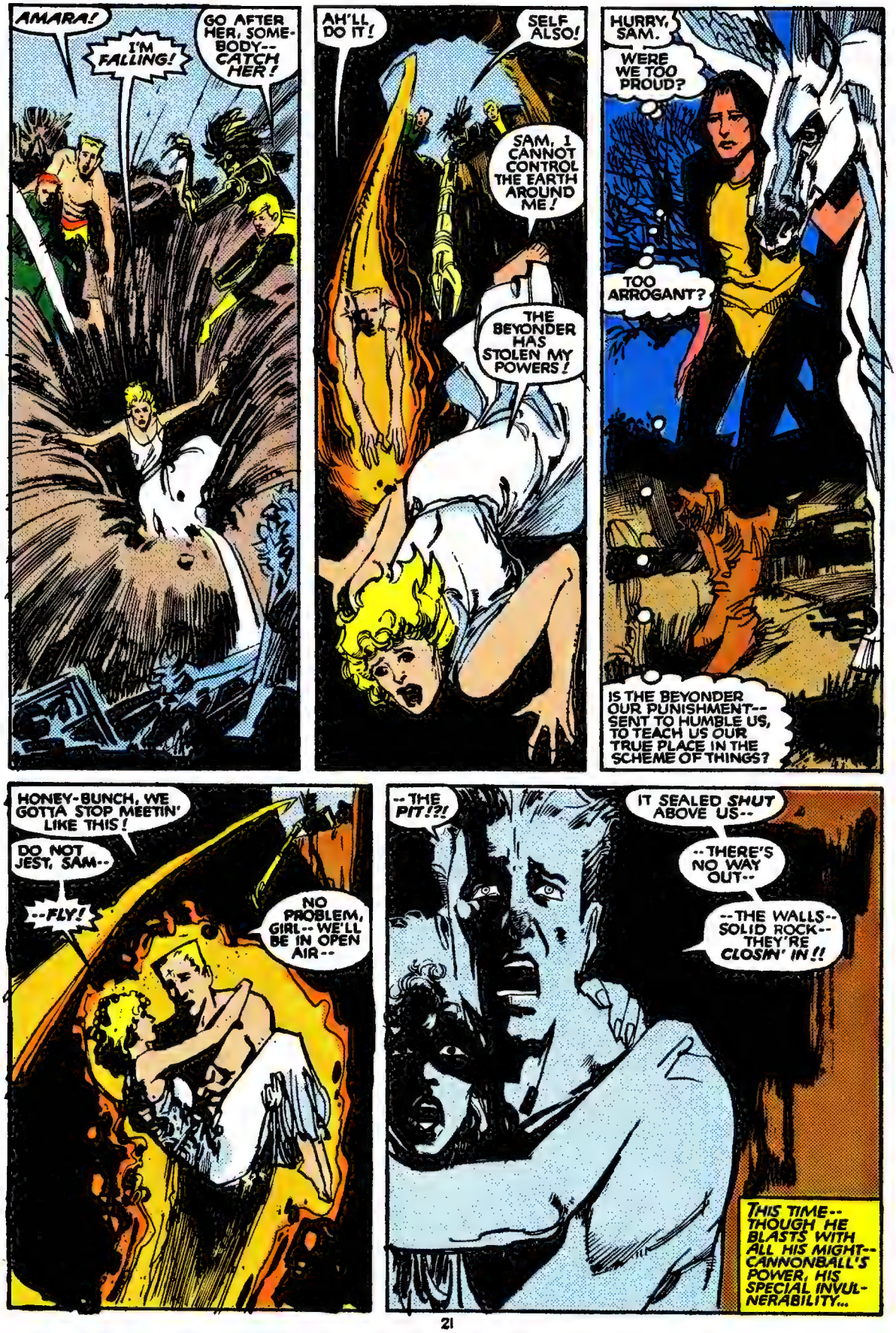
AGAINST HER WILL, DANI'S CONSCIOUSNESS IS DRAWN INTO HIS--TO BE OVERWHELMED BY CONCEPTS, REALITIES, THAT BEGGAR HER IMAGINATION.
SHE DISCOVERS AN ENTITY AS AFRAID OF LIFE AS OF DEATH--WHOSE ESSENCE IS AN AMALGAM OF BOTH, AND A DENIAL OF THEM--WHO IS INTEGRAL TO THE EXISTENCE AND FABRIC OF THE UNIVERSE...
...YET THREATENS THAT SAME UNIVERSE WITH EXTINCTION.
STOP IT! RELEASE HER!
YOU'RE KILLING DANI!!!
YES.
THAT IS MY INTENT.
IN AN ACT OF DESPERATION, KARMA ATTEMPTS TO POSSESS THE ONE FROM BEYOND--PUTTING HER ENTIRE HEART AND SOUL INTO THIS ATTACK--
--ONLY TO HAVE HER POWER REFLECTED BACK AT HER...
...WITH SUCH TERRIBLE FORCE...
...THAT HER MIND IS INSTANTLY DESTROYED.
SHAN...?!
SHE'S DEAD, DANI--DEAD!
FIRST ILLYANA--NOW SHAN--
--MY VISIONS ARE COMING TO PASS.
IS THERE NOTHING WE CAN DO?!
IS THERE NO HOPE?!!


WHILE WE LIVE--
WHILE THIS DAUGHTER OF ROME CAN FIGHT--
YES!!
FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH...
...MAGMA PULLS SLABS OF GRANITE--RAW, NEWBORN MOUNTAINS--TO CRUSH AND BURY THEIR FOE.
HE SHATTERS STONE...
...AS EASILY AS HE DID KARMA'S MIND.
SELF WANTS TO FLEE BEYONDER--
--WHO REMINDS SELF OF SELF'S DREAD SIRE, MAGUS.
BUT YOU HAVE HURT SELF'S FRIENDS!
THERE IS NO REASON FOR YOUR ACTIONS.
BUT SELF HAS A REASON--TO HURT--TO KILL!
VENGEANCE!

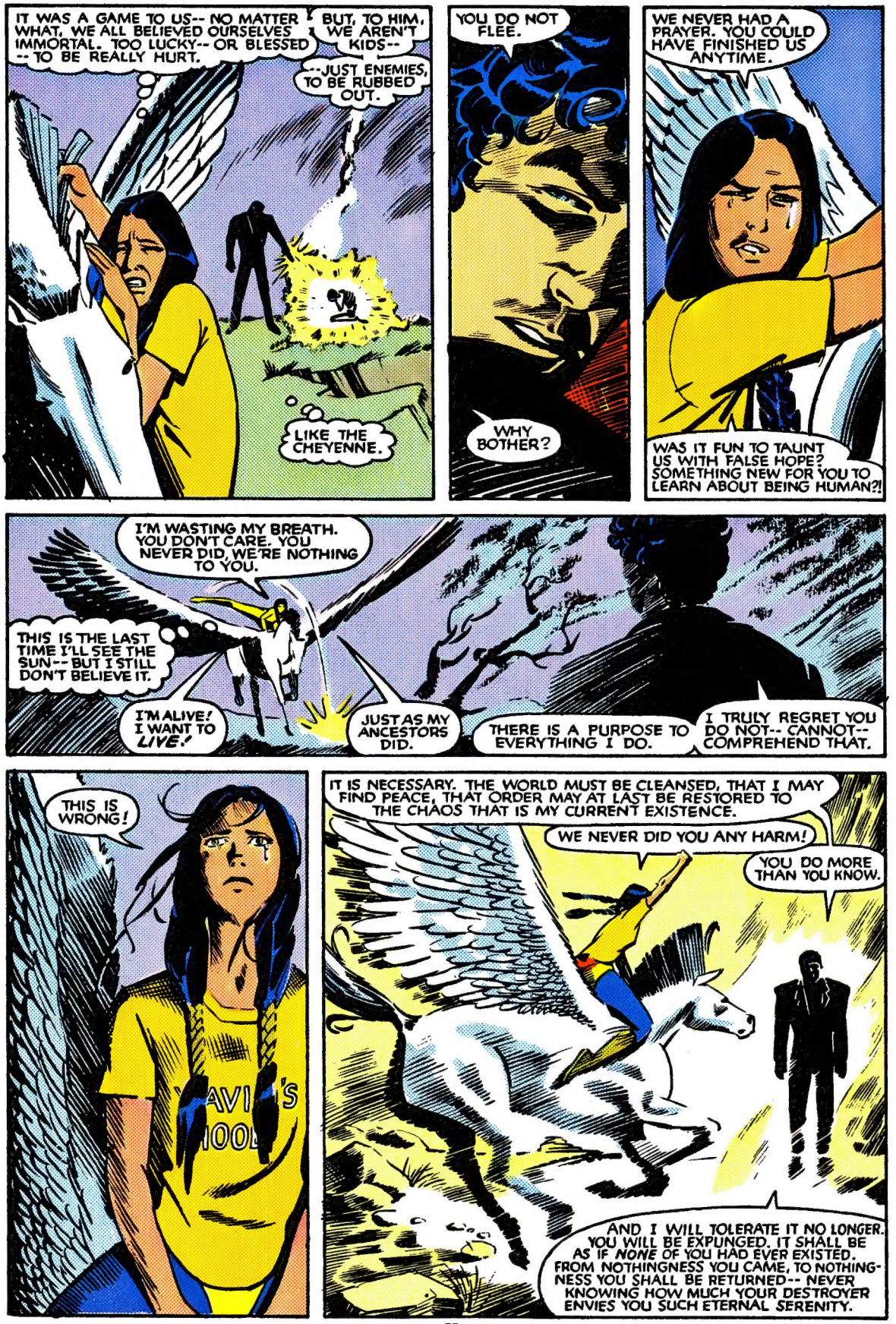

WHILE CHASING WARLOCK, MAGUS TORE A STAR ASUNDER.
WARLOCK ISN'T YET IN HIS FATHER'S LEAGUE...
...BUT TODAY, HE DRAWS ON RESOURCES, RESERVES...
...HE NEVER DREAMED EXISTED...
...TO DEADLY EFFECT.
WAY TO GO, 'LOCK!
DON'T LET UP FOR AN INSTANT! KEEP HITTING HIM, KEEP HIM ON THE ROPES--!
YOU MOCKED MY POWER EARLIER, ASSASSIN!
I HEAR NO SUCH LAUGHTER NOW!
HE AIN'T MOVIN'!
WE BEAT HIM!
AMARA, I THINK WE KILLED HIM!
IT WAS NO LESS, SAM...
...THAN HE MEANT FOR US.

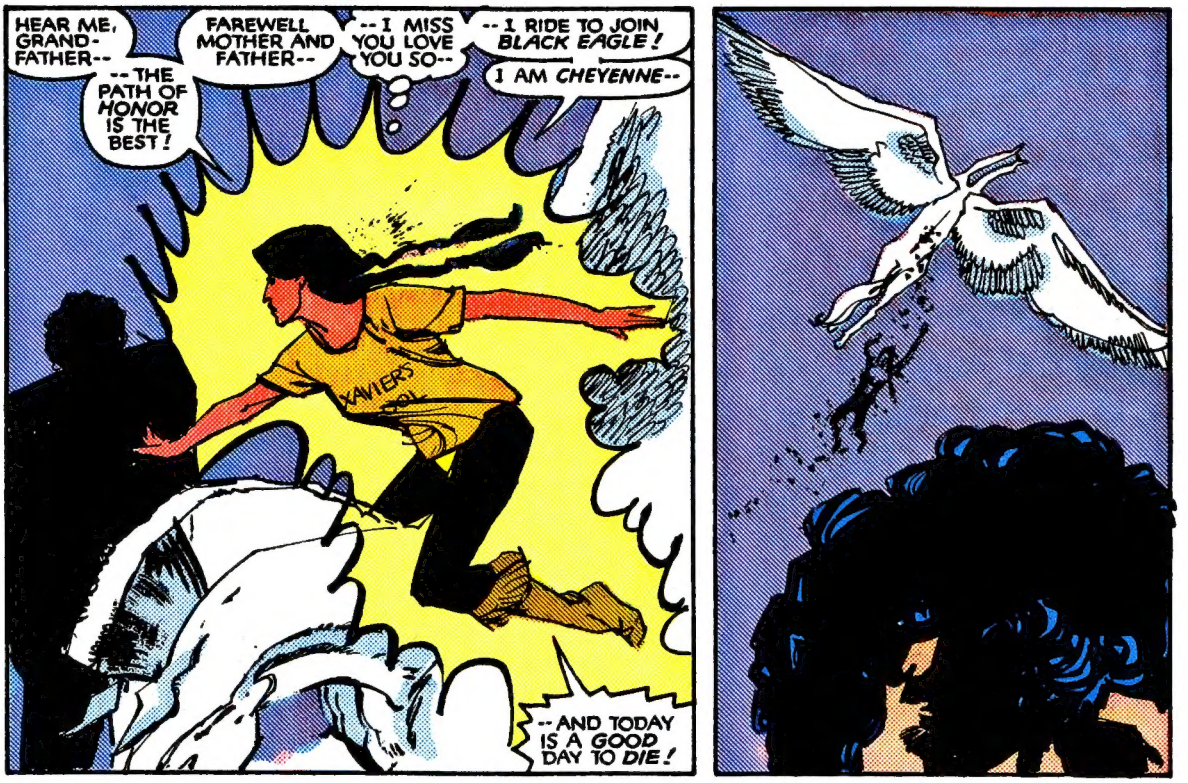

AH FIGURED AH'D BE GLAD...
...THAT AH'D WANT TO CHEER.
BUT THE ONLY THING AH CAN DO...
...IS CRY.
FOR OUR HOME...
...OUR FRIENDS.
SAVE YOUR TEARS. IT ISN'T OVER.
DANI-- WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
WE'RE KIDS!
FOR ALL OUR POWERS, WE'RE STILL BASICALLY HUMAN.
HE ISN'T. HE'S A WHOLE LOT MORE.
REMEMBER LAST WINTER, WHEN I FOUGHT MY DEMON BEAR? *
I FILLED THAT CRITTER'S HIDE WITH ARROWS--
--I WAS SURE I'D SLAIN HIM.
I WAS WRONG.
PERCEPTIVE CHILD.
GASP!
* IN NM #18-- A.

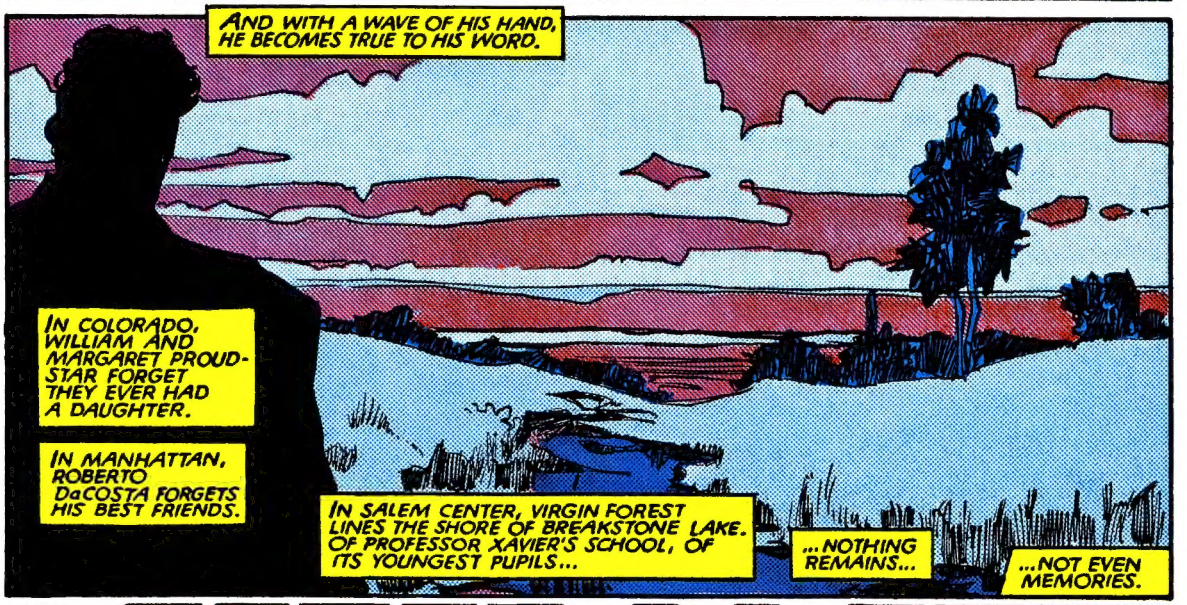
I HAVE TAKEN YOUR MEASURE, *NEW MUTANTS*-- ENDURED EVERY-THING YOU COULD THROW AT ME.
NOW, TO USE YOUR OWN IDIOM--
--IT'S MY TURN.


AMARA!
I'M FALLING!
GO AFTER HER, SOMEBODY-- CATCH HER!
AH'LL DO IT!
SELF ALSO!
SAM, I CANNOT CONTROL THE EARTH AROUND ME!
THE BEYONDER HAS STOLEN MY POWERS!
HURRY, SAM.
WERE WE TOO PROUD?
TOO ARROGANT?
IS THE BEYONDER OUR PUNISHMENT-- SENT TO HUMBLE US, TO TEACH US OUR TRUE PLACE IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS?
HONEY-BUNCH, WE GOTTA STOP MEETIN' LIKE THIS!
DO NOT JEST, SAM--
--FLY!
NO PROBLEM, GIRL-- WE'LL BE IN OPEN AIR--
--THE PIT!?!
IT SEALED SHUT ABOVE US--
--THERE'S NO WAY OUT--
--THE WALLS-- SOLID ROCK-- THEY'RE CLOSIN' IN!!
THIS TIME-- THOUGH HE BLASTS WITH ALL HIS MIGHT-- CANNONBALL'S POWER, HIS SPECIAL INVULNERABILITY...

...DOES NOT SAVE HIM.
DYSFUNCTION--MASSIVE SYSTEMS DYSFUNCTION--SENSORS SCAN NULL LIFEFORM READINGS FROM SELFRIENDS--SHOCKPAINHORROR!
AMARA!
YAEERRGHK
SAM!!
WARLOCK IS NEXT.
WOMP!
FATHER IN HEAVEN...
...WHY DO YOU PERMIT THIS?!
HANG ON, PARTNER!
USE MY LIFEGLOW--MY BODY--TO RECONSTITUTE YOUR OWN!
FRIENDOUG--DO NOT SACRIFICE--!
IT'S MY CHOICE!
TOGETHER, AS THE TEAM SUPREME, WE'LL--
RAHNE, BE BRAVE!
BE STRONG!
DOUGLAS!
FIGHT!
OH LORD, SAVE US!
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M SORRY I'M


IT WAS A GAME TO US-- NO MATTER WHAT, WE ALL BELIEVED OURSELVES IMMORTAL. TOO LUCKY-- OR BLESSED -- TO BE REALLY HURT.
BUT, TO HIM, WE AREN'T KIDS--
--JUST ENEMIES, TO BE RUBBED OUT.
LIKE THE CHEYENNE.
YOU DO NOT FLEE.
WHY BOTHER?
WE NEVER HAD A PRAYER. YOU COULD HAVE FINISHED US ANYTIME.
WAS IT FUN TO TAUNT US WITH FALSE HOPE? SOMETHING NEW FOR YOU TO LEARN ABOUT BEING HUMAN?!
I'M WASTING MY BREATH. YOU DON'T CARE. YOU NEVER DID. WE'RE NOTHING TO YOU.
THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'LL SEE THE SUN-- BUT I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT.
I'M ALIVE! I WANT TO LIVE!
JUST AS MY ANCESTORS DID.
THERE IS A PURPOSE TO EVERYTHING I DO.
I TRULY REGRET YOU DO NOT-- CANNOT-- COMPREHEND THAT.
THIS IS WRONG!
IT IS NECESSARY. THE WORLD MUST BE CLEANSED, THAT I MAY FIND PEACE, THAT ORDER MAY AT LAST BE RESTORED TO THE CHAOS THAT IS MY CURRENT EXISTENCE.
WE NEVER DID YOU ANY HARM!
YOU DO MORE THAN YOU KNOW.
AND I WILL TOLERATE IT NO LONGER. YOU WILL BE EXPUNGED. IT SHALL BE AS IF NONE OF YOU HAD EVER EXISTED. FROM NOTHINGNESS YOU CAME, TO NOTHINGNESS YOU SHALL BE RETURNED-- NEVER KNOWING HOW MUCH YOUR DESTROYER ENVIES YOU SUCH ETERNAL SERENITY.


HEAR ME, GRAND-FATHER--
-- THE PATH OF HONOR IS THE BEST!
FAREWELL MOTHER AND FATHER--
-- I MISS YOU LOVE YOU SO--
-- I RIDE TO JOIN BLACK EAGLE!
I AM CHEYENNE--
XAVIER'S
-- AND TODAY IS A GOOD DAY TO DIE!


AND WITH A WAVE OF HIS HAND, HE BECOMES TRUE TO HIS WORD.
IN COLORADO, WILLIAM AND MARGARET PROUD-STAR FORGET THEY EVER HAD A DAUGHTER.
IN MANHATTAN, ROBERTO DaCOSTA FORGETS HIS BEST FRIENDS.
IN SALEM CENTER, VIRGIN FOREST LINES THE SHORE OF BREAKSTONE LAKE. OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL, OF ITS YOUNGEST PUPILS...
...NOTHING REMAINS...
...NOT EVEN MEMORIES.

NEXT:

AFTERMATH

BULLPEN BULLETINS

Heh! Heh! Heh! I'll bet you expected to find Jim Shooter here at his usual spot on the *Bullpen Bulletins* page. Well, you're out of luck! Big Jim couldn't make it this month. He's out of the office. In fact, he isn't even in the country anymore. Consider him history!

The big guy (known as the *Polish Prince* by his close friends) was last seen packing his bags, and heading for the airport. His first stop is Germany, where he'll be attending the world-famous *Frankfurt Book Fair,* and spreading the wondrous word of merry **Marvel** to some of the most prestigious book and magazine publishers in the entire known universe. From there, Jim will be jetting to merry ol' England where he'll be stopping by to visit our British counterparts at **Marvel U.K.** (He'll also be spending a few days consulting with the producer of the upcoming *Captain America* motion picture—but, I think that's supposed to be a secret so I'd better not mention it.) After that, our globe-trotting editor in chief heads to Paris, France where he'll be delivering a few lectures on the art, craft and editorial vision that goes into making every one of our mighty **Marvel** masterpieces. (By the way, Jim confided in me that he's also going to try to sneak in a day or two of sightseeing during this month-long European sojourn. After all, the guy deserves a rest after having just completed the scripting chores on the best-selling comic book limited series of all time . . . **SECRET WARS II**!!)

And, now, comes the most exciting news of this column . . . while the Prince is gone, I am in charge of **Marvel Comics.** (Talk about a dream come true!) ME!! Ye ever-faithful executive editor Tom DeFalco!! (Cue the canned applause!)

I control the CAPITAL LETTERS! **The bold words!** *The italics!* (Ah, total power is so intoxicating!)

But, after my many years of association with a certain wondrous wall-crawler, I've learned one important truth . . . with great power, there must come great responsibility.

Or, I guess one could always opt for chaos . . .

MEMO: To All Editors
SUBJECT: The color yellow

From henceforth, the color yellow is banned from all of our books. It makes our heroes look too cowardly!!

With respect from the top,
Tom D.

MEMO: To All Editors
SUBJECT: Letter columns

James Shooter (the guy who used to be in charge) often said that our letter columns were important because they gave us a chance to learn what the readers really thought of our comics. Effective immediately, letter columns will now be placed at the start of each book, and run ten pages in length. Story pages will decrease accordingly.

It's great at the top!
Tom D.

MEMO: To All Editors
SUBJECT: Covers

It's time for Marvel to blaze new trails in regards to comic book covers. From now on, our covers will be printed INSIDE THE BOOKS! Make the readers wait for them!!

Dr. Doom was right!!
Tom D.

Hey, this is fun! I can't wait until Big Jim returns to see the changes I've made. I'm sure he'll be pleased . . .

CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THING #33**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #228**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #37**—It's the New Mutants vs. the Beyonder to the death in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #12**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #6**
- ☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #5**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #7**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #33**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #274**—The Puma lurks within this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #32**—Welcome the new Vindicator!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #315**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #20**—Guest-starring the New Mutants!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #18**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #34**
- ☐ **DAZZLER #42**—The end of an era!
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **FIRESTAR (Limited Series) #1**—Direct from hit Saturday morning TV show, "Spider-Man and his Amazing Friends," and into her own comic! Guest starring the New Mutants and the X-Men!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #4**—History was made in issues #46–65! Read all about it!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #4**—Featuring everyone from Doctor Strange to Gee!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #317**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #265**—Don't you know we're on the "Eve of Destruction" in this *Secret Wars* cross-over?
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #180**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #185**
- ☐ **X-MEN #203**—It's a battle to the death with the Beyonder in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #122**
- ☐ **SOLOMON KANE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #45**
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #6—Betrayal!**
- ☐ **PUNISHER (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **BALDER THE BRAVE (Limited Series) #3**—Special tie-in with the *Mighty Thor!*
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #4**—Uncanny mutant issue!
- ☐ **WONDER MAN #1**—That popular West Coast Avenger finally stars in his own *double-sized* adventure!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #204**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #288**—It's real! Doctor Doom appears in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #112**—The Black Cat is back!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #104**
- ☐ **THOR #365**
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #2**—The Beast is kidnapped!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #14**
- ☐ **SECTAURS #5**
- ☐ **SECRET WARS II (Limited Series) #9**—Cataclysmic double-sized final issue, featuring virtually everyone in the Marvel Universe in the wildest battle you'll ever see!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #18**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #36**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #25**—Featuring "Weirdworld" and a Dave Sim Portfolio!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #121**
- ☐ **SAVAGE TALES #3**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #5**—Welcome aboard new regular penciler GEOF ISHERWOOD!
- ☐ **MOONSHADOW #6**—Eye-popping artwork supplied this issue by *Epic* illustrator KENT WILLIAMS!
- ☐ **STARSTRUCK (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **THE ONE (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #13**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #8**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS II (Limited Series) #2**—Found: a gateway to another dimension!
- ☐ **COYOTE #16**—The Djinn and Scorpio Rose join Coyote in his last adventure!
- ☐ **TIMESPIRITS #8**—Could this be . . . the end?
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #34**—The final issue, featuring TERRY AUSTIN, JOHN BYRNE, ARCHIE GOODWIN, ALAN MOORE, SANDY PLUNKETT, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, ART SUYDAM, AL WILLIAMSON, BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH and BERNI WRIGHTSON, among others!

STAR COMICS

- ☐ **PLANET TERRY #12**—A happy surprise for Vermin the Vile!
- ☐ **PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #6**
- ☐ **WALLY THE WIZARD #12**
- ☐ **EWOKS #6**—Wicket finds himself in a cosmic battle against the Ice Demon!
- ☐ **ROYAL ROY #6**—What is the secret power of Cashelot?
- ☐ **MUPPET BABIES #6**—Scooter rules the world!
- ☐ **GETALONG GANG #6**—Watch out! There's a stranger in Green Meadow!
- ☐ **CARE BEARS #3**—Featuring "Blue Who!"

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **GN #20: GREENBERG THE VAMPIRE**—Why is New York called "Fun City?" Because you can wander through Chinatown, eat a bagel, and meet vampires! Get in on the fun with J.M. DeMATTEIS (writer) and MARK BADGER (artist)!

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST